



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

No. 26

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TORRES of New York).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 9, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RITCHIE TORRES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord, You wait to be gracious to us. In Your infinite regard, You stand at the ready, waiting to share the enormity of Your loving kindness to each of us.

Pierce the most hardened of hearts that we would accept Your tender care.

Lord, You have promised to show mercy to us. In Your boundless love, You want to take us into your compassionate embrace that we would know of Your forgiveness.

Pierce the most secret corners of our hearts that we would relax in Your acceptance.

Lord, You are a God of justice, blessing those who trust that You have the final word over the injustice and evil in this world.

Pierce the most doubting heart, that in the face of all that we fear, we would discover that our hope is found only in You.

We give our hearts to You this day, trusting in the salvation of Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RESTORING POWER TO WOMEN

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, in an important moment of bipartisanship on Monday, this Chamber passed the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021.

Over 75 percent of Members voted to restore power to women, who far too often have been at the mercy of powerful men and even more powerful companies.

This bill is not simply about arbitration, but about ending forced arbitration.

According to the EEOC, one in four women have been sexually harassed at work.

For many, the fear of retaliation and being blackballed stops them from coming forward.

And the women who do find the courage to come forward can be challenged by the confidentiality clause so often tied to forced arbitration clauses in employment contracts.

This legislation will give sexual harassment and assault survivors the freedom to decide legal action.

This bill goes beyond recourse for the victim. It is about redress in a court of law, not in a closed arbitration room.

Because that is justice. I look forward to Senate passage.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PATRICIA ANN LEMAY HOCKING

(Mr. WEBER of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of the First Lady of Bee Cave, Texas, and former First Lady of La Marque, Texas, Patricia Ann LeMay Hocking.

Patti, as she was affectionately known, was a fascinating woman with a colorful background. From an early age, Patti loved ballet. Patti took ballet lessons with the Houston Ballet Foundation. Patti worked hard in pursuit of that goal, and eventually, she danced professionally with the Houston Ballet Company.

Patti graduated from Incarnate Word Academy in downtown Houston, married Mr. Robert Ellis Hocking—Bobby Hocking—and they settled in Bee Cave, Texas, where she built, owned, and ran her first of two dance studios.

After Bee Cave was incorporated in 1987, Bobby Hocking was elected the town's very first mayor. Patti was always by his side as his biggest fan and supporter. They traveled together internationally when Bobby was lead singer in many bands, then as a gospel singer and evangelist. It was Patti's prayers and influence that brought Bobby back to his roots, and they spent many years in the ministry,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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